

ER Site No. 88B: Firing Site: Instrumentation Pole

ADS: 1334

Operable Unit: Central Coyote Test Area

Site History	1
Constituents of Concern.....	2
Current Hazards	2
Current Status of Work	3
Future Work Planned	3
Waste Volume Estimated/Generated	3

Primary Contact: [Dick Fate](#)

Office Phone: 284-2568

Site History

ER Site 88: Firing Site was divided into two subsites for investigation purposes; [Site 88A](#): Firing Site: Ranch House and 88B: Firing Site: Instrumentation Pole. [Site 88A](#) lies inside Site 88B and has been designated a archeological site containing the remains of a historic ranch house structure. Site 88B is an inactive site located 1,500 feet west of Arroyo Del Coyote at the Greystone Manor Site ([ER Site 62](#)). The sites cover a total of 15.5 acres of federally-owned land controlled by the United States Air Force (USAF).

ER Site 88B consists of a wooden instrumentation pole with remnants of steel cable and guy wires; a small pit where a second wooden pole was located; and a wire mesh grid on the ground between the existing pole and pit. A debris mound containing pieces of burned metal, electrical components, and wood was formerly located approximately 100 feet south of the former ranch house. The site boundary is defined by the traces of a circular dirt road graded around the site.

The wood instrumentation pole and guy wires are approximately 100 ft west of the former Ranch House. Aerial photographs show that a second pole was once present 50 feet to the west. It has been removed and it's location is now marked by a shallow hole. A guy wire anchor point is located approximately 84 ft northwest of this hole and a section of cable lies on the ground near the anchor point. The area between the pole and hole is covered with the remnants of a 60-ft by 48-ft wire mesh screen within a wood frame. The wire mesh screen is anchored to the ground with metal fasteners in several locations. At the center point of the wire mesh screen, between the hole and the pole, is a plastic tie-down device.

A debris mound containing burned pieces of metal, electrical components and wire, and wood was located approximately 100 ft south of the former Ranch House (ER Site 88A).

No information has been discovered regarding the period of operation or the type(s) of tests that were conducted at this site. The lack of scattered debris, scarring on the remaining wood pole, or

holes in the mesh screen imply that this was not an explosives testing site, although those facilities can be similar in appearance to Site 88B.

Aerial photographs of ER Site 88B give some indication of when the site was active. The two wood poles are the only features besides the ranch house present in a 1951 photograph. A 1959 aerial photograph shows the debris mound and a smooth cleared area between the poles with a circular highly reflective feature next to the eastern pole, indicating testing was occurring at this time. In a 1967 aerial photograph, the western pole has been removed.

Previous Investigations - ER Site 88 (subsequently divided into [ER Sites 88A](#) and 88B) was first listed as a potential release site based on the Comprehensive Environmental Assessment and Response Program (CEARP) interviews in 1985, which identified a wood instrumentation pole and its associated guy wires and wire mesh screen. The regulatory disposition of the site remained uncertain, however, because no conclusion could be reached on whether hazardous waste or constituents were handled at the site. Insufficient information also prevented calculating a Hazard Ranking System score for the site.

Subsequent to the CEARP inspection, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Assessment (RFA). The RFA report noted the presence of the same items reported in the CEARP and identified the Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) in Section VII, "Other Areas of Concern," which addressed areas that did not meet the regulatory definition of a SWMU.

In November 1993, KAFB Explosive Ordnance Disposal conducted a surface unexploded ordnance (UXO)/high explosives (HE) survey at the site in conjunction with ER Sites [21](#) and [62](#). No UXO or HE was found at this site.

In January 1994, RUST Geotech Inc. conducted a surface gamma radiation survey at ER Site 88B. The only anomaly identified was associated with two pieces of orange Fiesta Ware (a type of dishware having a high uranium content in the glaze). Readings of 14 to 19 microRoentgen per hour were measured, which is 1 to 6 microRoentgen per hour above background. The Fiesta Ware was removed under a voluntary corrective measure (VCM).

Constituents of Concern

Metals

Current Hazards

There are no current hazards at this site related to possible metals contamination of the surface or subsurface soils. A hole marking the location of a former utility pole is located 50 feet west of the existing utility pole. This hole presents a walking and driving hazard.

Current Status of Work

The New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) approved RFI sampling and VCM work at this site. The site characterization sampling and debris mound sampling and removal were completed in January 1997. A No Further Action (NFA) proposal was submitted to New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) in September 1997. In December 1999, NMED indicated that the site was acceptable for NFA petition. The NFA was approved by NMED in October 2000 after completing the public review and permit modification process.

Future Work Planned

No further work is planned.

Waste Volume Estimated/Generated

Three 55-gallon drums of nonhazardous material were generated during the debris mound sampling and removal.

Information for ER Site 88B was last updated Nov 7, 2001.